

Equity . : USS 160 million
(Oman Oil
Company)

Retail price of Urea

1405. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed that the fixation of maximum retail price of Urea by Government should continue; and
- (b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Fixation of the maximum selling price per tonne of urea continues to be done by the Government as per provisions of Cause 3(1) of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985.

Excess drawal of Fertilizer subsidy

1406. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have recently ordered CBI enquiry into the excess drawing of subsidy by some of the country's top corporates in fertilizer sector;
- (b) if so, what are the details thereof, including the names of the companies which have understated their capacity, and how much excess amount of subsidy is reported to have been drawn during the last five years by each company; and
- (c) by when the CBI enquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) The Government have taken two-pronged action to address to the issue related to understatement of capacity and excess drawal of subsidy by some of the urea manufacturing units in the country: one action relates to initiating penal action and the other relates to the recovery of the excess amount drawn as subsidy. In so far as penal action is concerned, the matter has been referred to the Central

[4 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Bureau of Investigation for investigation of the available evidence with a view to work out whether a *prima facie* case is made out against the concerned units under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code. The exact amount of recovery from the urea manufacturing units and the mode of recovery thereof will, however, depend on the report of the Committee headed by Dr. Y. K. Alagh set up by the Government vide Resolution dated 19.5.2000 and the Government's decision thereon.

Decline in chemical industry

1407. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether environmental pollution hazards are the main reasons for the decline of chemical industries in India;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (c) the measures proposed to be taken to habitat these industries at safe locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) There are no indications of decline of chemical industries in India due to environmental pollution hazards.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The location of industrial units is regulated by zoning and land use regulations as also the environmental guidelines.

Fertilizers pricing policy

1408. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a new long-term fertilizer pricing policy has been finalised and approved by Government; and
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a)